♣ THE MIRROR

WE TAKE THE SAME ROAD ONO-KUN, WANT TO GO HOME TOGETHER?
SEEYA LATER.
BYE BYE.
HAS HE BEEN OVERSTUDYING?
ONO-KUN'S BEEN RATHER WEIRD RECENTLY.
WHAT AN ODD BOY...
AH!
OH MY, HOW SAD.
YES HE HAS. YOU SEE HIS MOTHER'S VERY PUSHY WHEN IT COMES TO HIS EDUCATION...

WATCH OUT!
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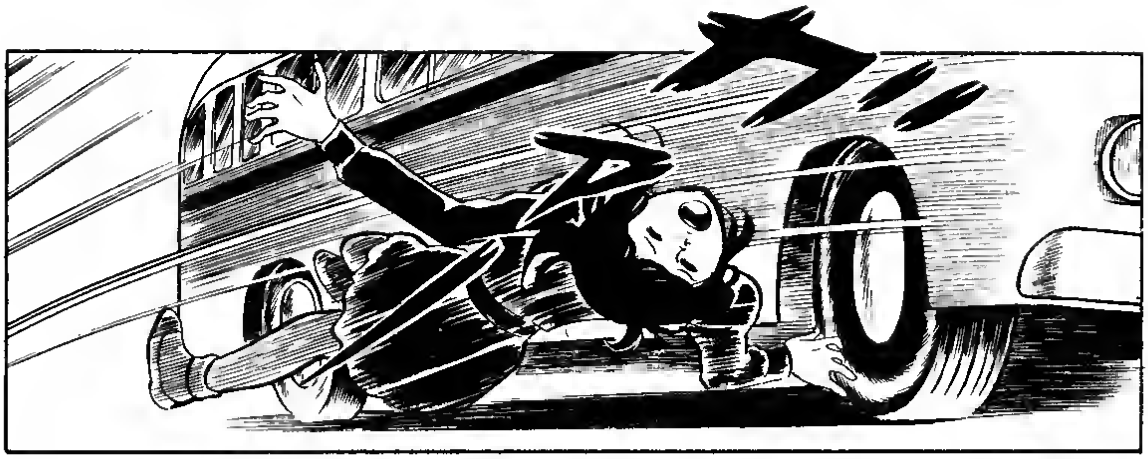
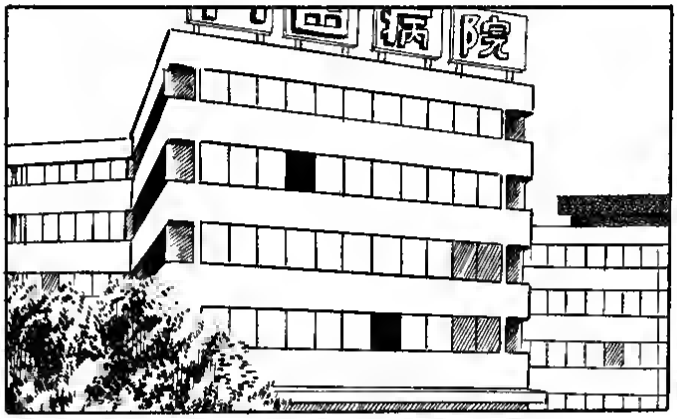
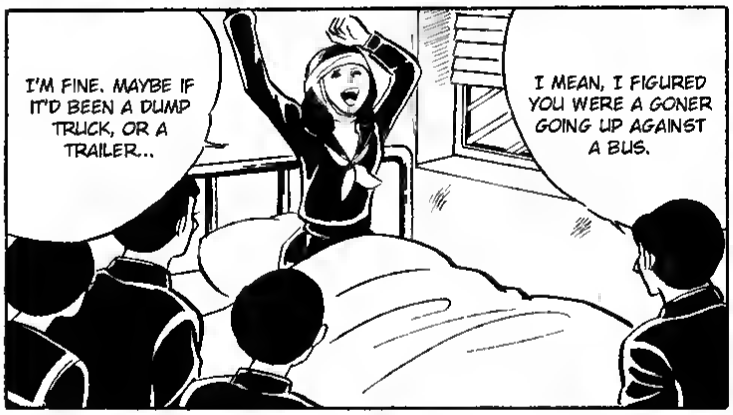




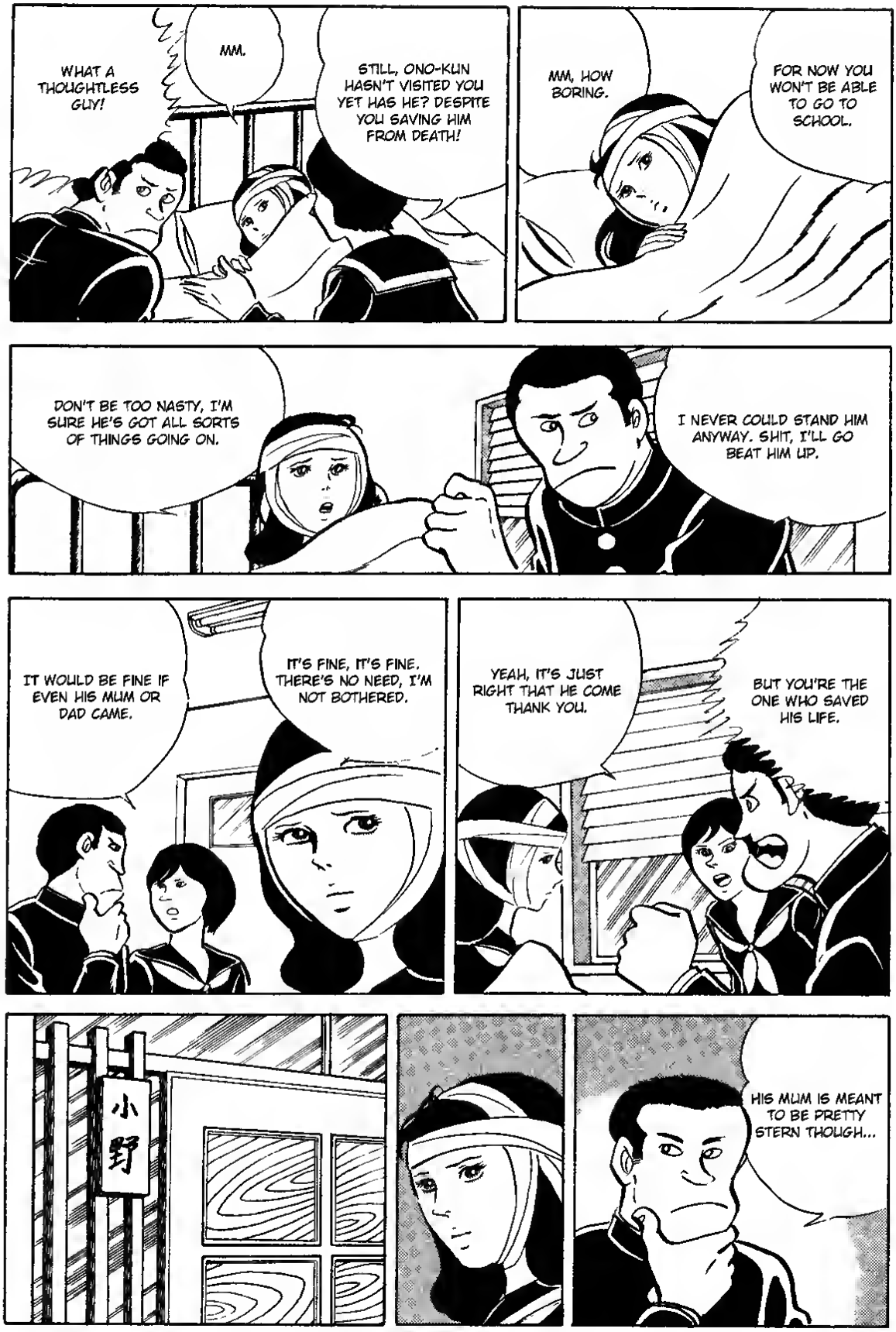
KU... KUROI-SAN!

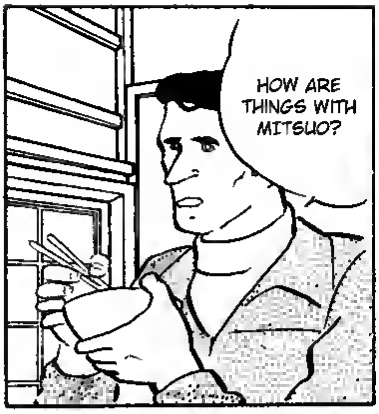

I'M FINE. MAYBE IF IT'D BEEN A DUMP TRUCK, OR A TRAILER...
I MEAN, I FIGURED YOU WERE A GONER GOING UP AGAINST A BUS.

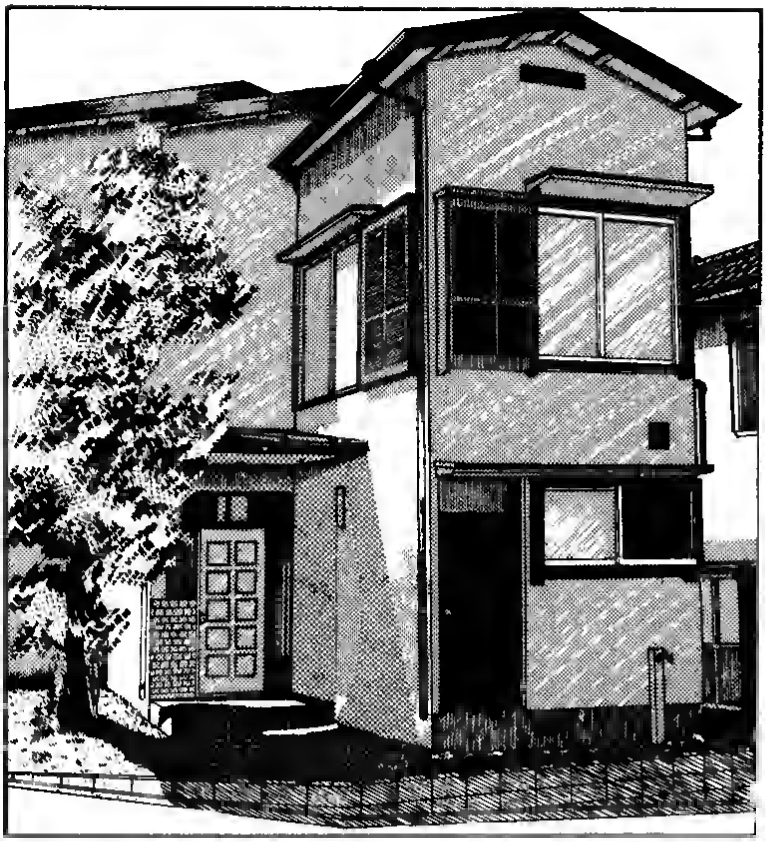
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE NOT TOO BADLY HURT.
YOUR COMPLEXION LOOKS GOOD TOO WHICH IS A RELIEF.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
DON'T BE SILLY NOW, YOU NEEDN'T PUSH YOURSELF JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ALL HERE.

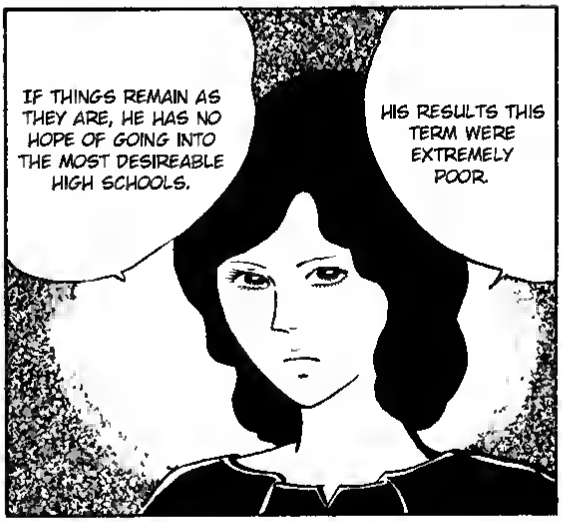
OW!

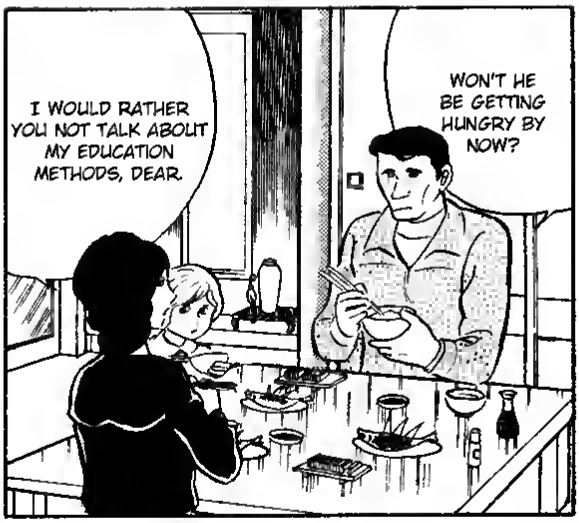

WHAT A THOUGHTLESS GUY!
MM.
STILL, ONO-KUN HASN'T VISITED YOU YET HAS HE? DESPITE YOU SAVING HIM FROM DEATH!
MM, HOW BORING.
FOR NOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL.
DON'T BE TOO NASTY, I'M SURE HE'S GOT ALL SORTS OF THINGS GOING ON.
I NEVER COULD STAND HIM ANYWAY. SHIT, I'LL GO BEAT HIM UP.
IT WOULD BE FINE IF EVEN HIS MUM OR DAD CAME.
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE. THERE'S NO NEED, I'M NOT BOTHERED.
YEAH, IT'S JUST RIGHT THAT HE COME THANK YOU.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED HIS LIFE.
小野
HIS MUM IS MEANT TO BE PRETTY STERN THOUGH...


HOW ARE THINGS WITH MITSUO?

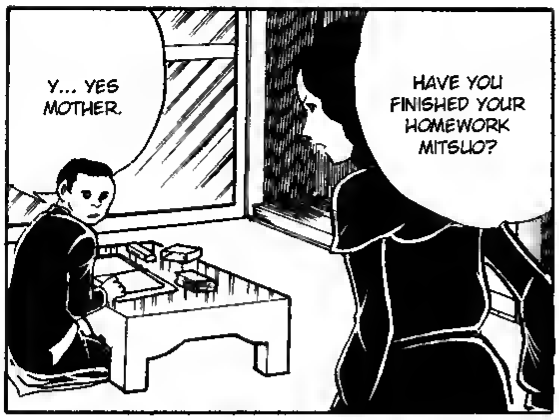


HE'S STILL NOT FINISHED STUDYING.

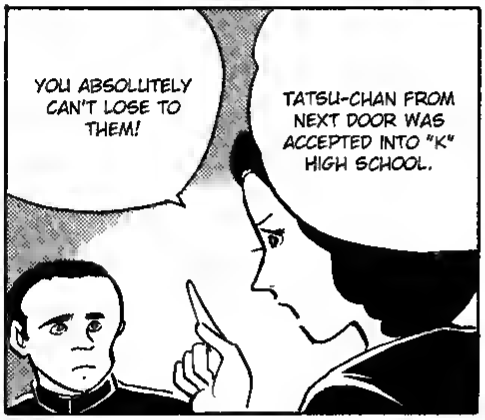

IF THINGS REMAIN AS THEY ARE, HE HAS NO HOPE OF GOING INTO THE MOST DESIREABLE HIGH SCHOOLS.
HIS RESULTS THIS TERM WERE EXTREMELY POOR.


I WOULD RATHER YOU NOT TALK ABOUT MY EDUCATION METHODS, DEAR.
WON'T HE BE GETTING HUNGRY BY NOW?

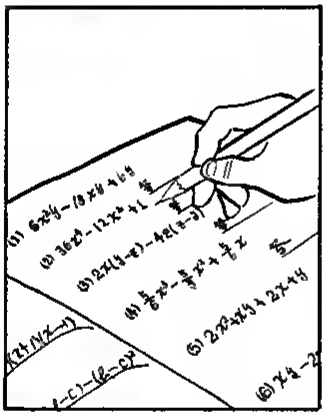
I DO NOT WISH FOR HIM TO BE LIKE YOU, A SIMPLE WORKER WITH NO ACADEMIC BACKGROUND.
BUT...
WHILE TRUE, I'M NOT SURE YOU NEED TO FORCE HIM TO DO THIS.


Y... YES MOTHER.
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR HOMEWORK MITSUO?

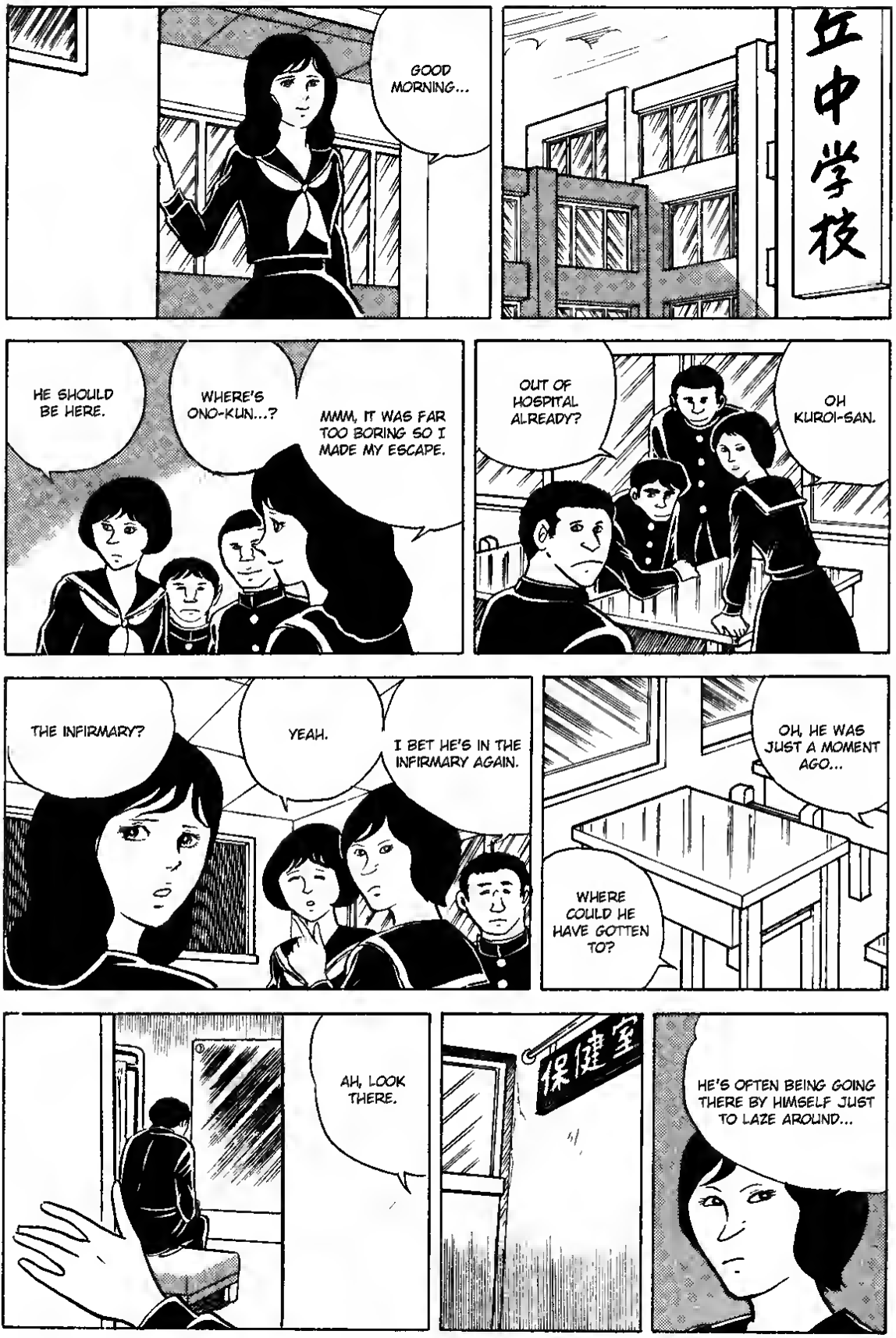
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WALK OUTSIDE FOR SHAME.
OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IS FILLED WITH FINE MEN LIKE PROFESSORS AND DIPLOMATS...

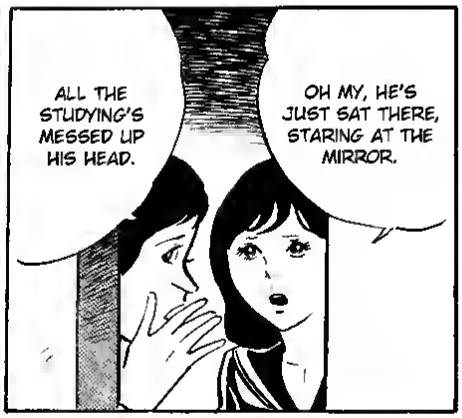

YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN'T LOSE TO THEM!
TATSU-CHAN FROM NEXT DOOR WAS ACCEPTED INTO "K" HIGH SCHOOL.

YES YES, THIS WILL DO...
HMMM, NICELY DONE.



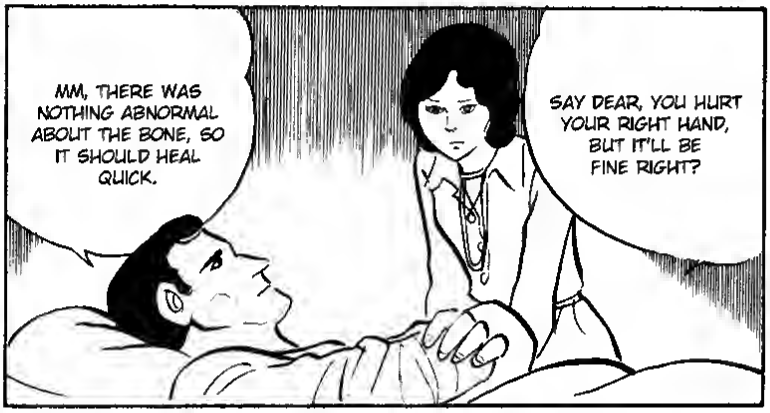
NOW, LET'S GET THINGS SORTED FOR TOMORROW'S LESSON.
WITH MY BLOOD FLOWING IN YOU, YOU HAVE TO BE SMART!
YES.

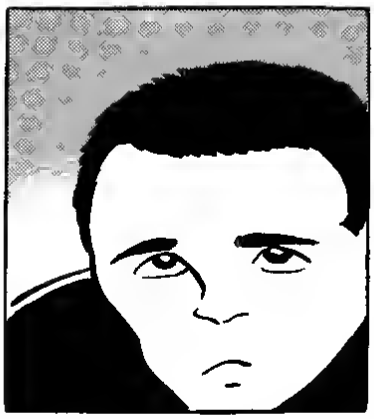

GOOD MORNING...
丘中学校
HE SHOULD BE HERE.
WHERE'S ONO-KUN...?
MMM, IT WAS FAR TOO BORING SO I MADE MY ESCAPE.
OUT OF HOSPITAL ALREADY?
OH KUROI-SAN.
THE INFIRMARY?
YEAH.
I BET HE'S IN THE INFIRMARY AGAIN.
OH, HE WAS JUST A MOMENT AGO...
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN TO?
AH, LOOK THERE.
保健室
HE'S OFTEN BEING GOING THERE BY HIMSELF JUST TO LAZE AROUND...

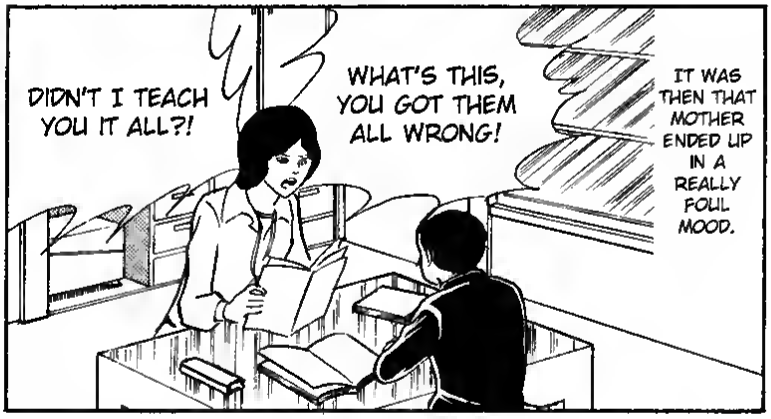

ALL THE STUDYING'S MESSED UP HIS HEAD.
OH MY, HE'S JUST SAT THERE, STARING AT THE MIRROR.

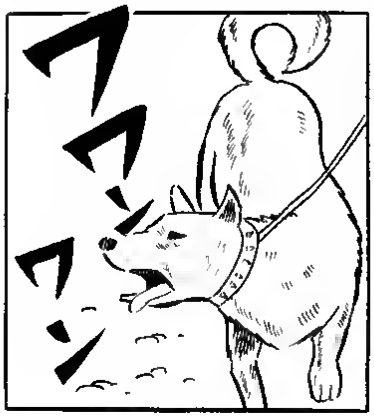
IT SEEMS SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU...
BUT NOTHING WILL CHANGE IF YOU JUST BROOD OVER IT ALONE.
ONO-KUN...
HAH?
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN BY TALKING TO YOU ABOUT IT.
YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT UNTIL YOU TRY.
...
WELL, WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I SAID I'D ENTERED THIS MIRROR?
EH, YOU WENT INTO THE MIRROR?!

MY FATHER HAD HIS HAND TRAPPED IN A MACHINE AT THE FACTORY, AND WAS ON LEAVE FROM WORK...
YES. IT WAS AROUND THREE MONTHS AGO.


MM, THERE WAS NOTHING ABNORMAL ABOUT THE BONE, SO IT SHOULD HEAL QUICK.
SAY DEAR, YOU HURT YOUR RIGHT HAND, BUT IT'LL BE FINE RIGHT?




DIDN'T I TEACH YOU IT ALL?!
WHAT'S THIS, YOU GOT THEM ALL WRONG!
IT WAS THEN THAT MOTHER ENDED UP IN A REALLY FOUL MOOD.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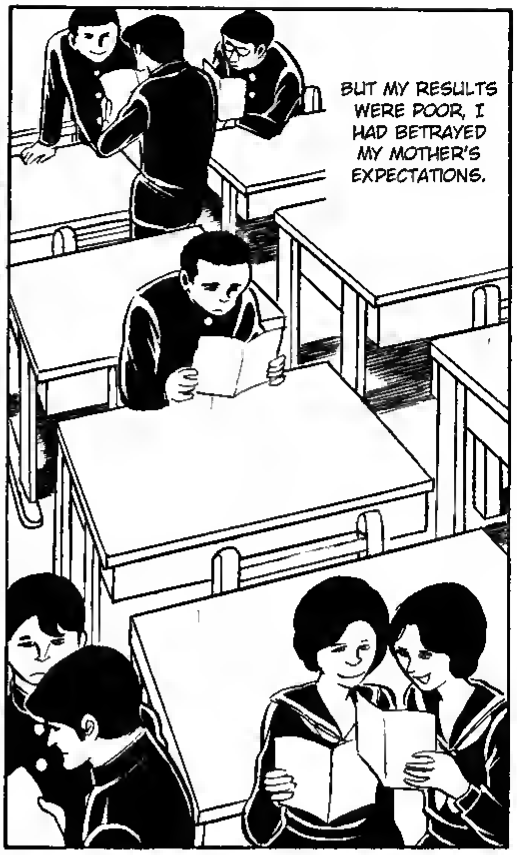
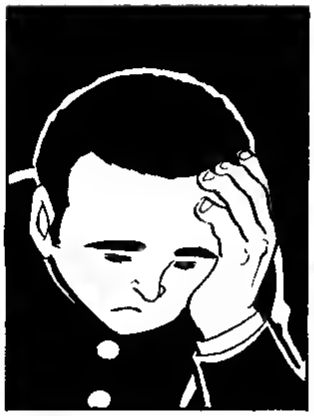
NOT JUST ANYONE CAN MAKE IT INTO A GOOD SCHOOL YOU KNOW!

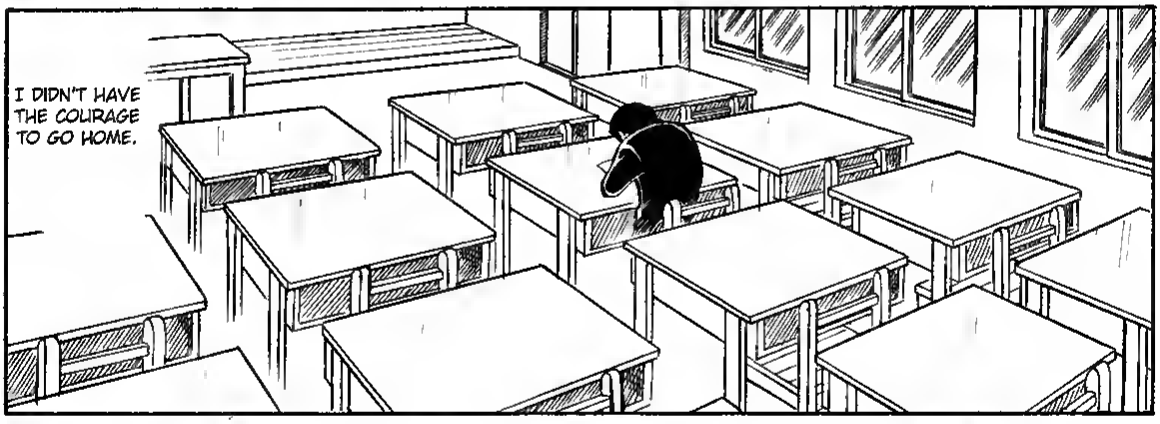
カーン
カーン
QUIET TARO!
ワンワンワン
YOU'RE INTERRUPTING THE STUDY!
キャン
キャン

HAAH, HAAH.
TA...
TARO!
FROM THAT DAY ON, MOTHER BECAME ALL THE MORE TERRIFYING....
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS EXPECTING HER OWN REPORT CARD.
I'VE BEEN WORKING AS HARD AS I CAN WITH YOU, SO I'M SURE YOUR RESULTS WILL IMPROVE.
WE'LL GET YOUR REPORT CARD TODAY.


BUT MY RESULTS WERE POOR, I HAD BETRAYED MY MOTHER'S EXPECTATIONS.

OI, ONO, STILL HERE?




I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO GO HOME.

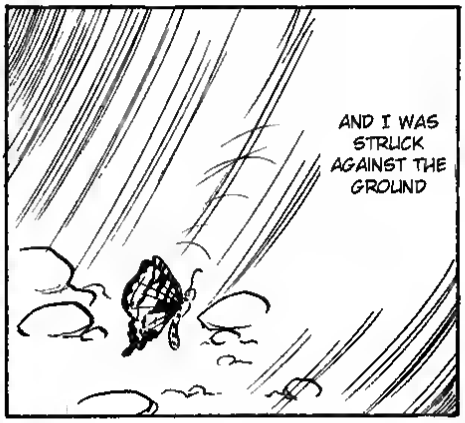
AND SO I ENDED UP FALLING ASLEEP THERE...

MERELY IMAGINING MY MOTHER SCOLDING ME MADE ME SHAKE.

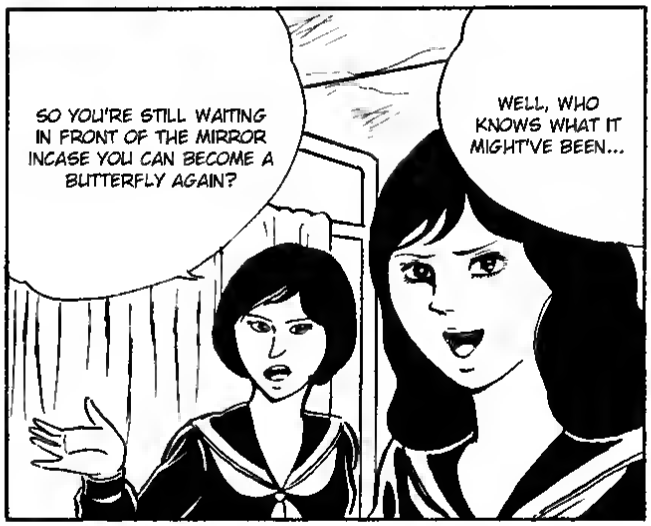
HAH?!
MITSUO!
?
ドタドタ
TH... THAT'S MOTHER'S VOICE!
IN MY DREAM I FOUND MYSELF RUNNING AROUND THE SCHOOL BUILDING.
HAAH, HAAH.
WHERE ARE YOU, MITSUO?!

ガラッ!!
ガタ!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG PASSED, BUT I THEN FOUND THAT I WAS A BUTTERFLY.
WITHIN A SPLIT SECOND A MIRACLE OCCURED, AND I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF SUCKED INTO A MIRROR.
I HAD NEVER REALISED THAT SUCH BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, VERDANT TREES, AND OTHER PLANTS GREW IN THE SCHOOL.
A BUTTER-FLY?!
INDEED, I FLEW AROUND TO MY HEART'S CONTENT.
IT WAS THE MOST FUN I HAD EVER HAD. I WAS AN ENTITY THAT COULD DANCE FREELY THROUGHOUT SPACE.
LIKE THAT I FOUND MYSELF FLYING THROUGH THE AIR

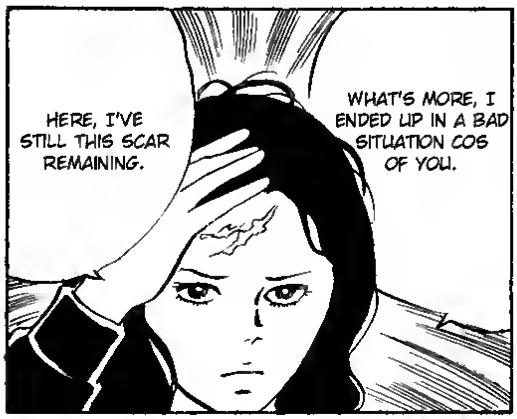
I SPENT SEVERAL DAYS LIKE THIS, WITH THINGS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO MY NORMAL LIFE.
OF COURSE, I HAD PLENTY OF FRIENDS TOO.


AND I WAS STRUCK AGAINST THE GROUND

AH!
EVEN SO, A STRONG WIND BLEW ONE DAY.


SO YOU'RE STILL WAITING IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR INCASE YOU CAN BECOME A BUTTERFLY AGAIN?
WELL, WHO KNOWS WHAT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN...

AM I BACK IN THE INFIRMARY?
AH!


HERE, I'VE STILL THIS SCAR REMAINING.
WHAT'S MORE, I ENDED UP IN A BAD SITUATION COS OF YOU.

IT'S OBVIOUS ISN'T IT, ALL YOUR STUDYING HAS REALLY MESSED AROUND YOUR HEAD.
YES. BUT I CAN'T EASILY MANAGE IT.

I... I CAN'T, MONEY WISE...
EH?!
I WANT YOU TO COVER THE DOCTOR'S BILL.
EEH?!
WELL NOTHING FOR IT THEN. I'LL NEED TO GIVE YOU THE SAME SCAR.
S... STOP IT PLEEEEASE!
UFUFUFU, YOU SHOULD CERTAINLY BE SCARED.
AAAAARGH!
YOU'VE NOWHERE TO RUN, LIKE BACK WHEN YOUR MUM WAS CHASING YOU.
KUROI-SAN, STOP!

AAAH!

INDEED. HENCE WHY I PURPOSELY DROVE HIM INTO THE MIRROR...
SO ONO-KUN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH....
H... HE'S GONE...?
MM...
PERHAPS IT'S ONO-KUN.
OH, A BUTTERFLY...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S HAVING A REAL FUN TIME FLYING AROUND...
EKO EKO AZARAK!
EKO EKO ZAMERAK!

EKO EKO AZARAK VOLUME 2 - END